TAPE NO. 36

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NARRATOR Henry Lopez

INTERVIEWER Phyllis Lotz

PLACE Lopez home, Baseline Santa Ynez

DATE July 5, 1980

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Interview with Henry Lopez
Date of Interview: July 5, 1980,Lopez Home, Baseline, S.Y.
Interviewer: Phyllis Lotz
Transcriber: Phyllis Lotz

Begin Tape 1, Side 1

PL: Introduction

Can you tell me anything about your parents?

Mr. L: As far as I know they were born in Montecito, they came down here (Santa Ynez Valley) to farm right below the mission on La Mesita Ranch. I was born there but the older children were born in Montecito-Adrulfo and my sisters. The younger ones were born near the reservation (Santa Ynez Indian Reservation)

PL: How many children in your parents family?

Mr. L: Nine, seven boys and two girls.

PL: And where did you come along in that line?

Mr. L: I was born in 1898, the last one born at La Mesita. My dad used to farm and also made olive oil for Mr. Selby and Mr. Boyd. Then from there he moved up on Refugio Mt. and got a homestead there. I was very young at that time. He had horses and a few cattle too. Later he would go up to Montana and shear sheep.

PL: Did he leave the family here?

Mr. L: Yes, up on the mountain, my mother, all of us, and we used to go to school up there, milk the cows, feed the pigs.

PL: What was the name of the school?

Mr. L: I don't remember the name but our teacher was Nellie Donahue. The land we had is now part of the Reagan Ranch.

PL: How did you get to school?

Mr. L: We walked about 2 1/2 miles, Ben, Pete, my sisters, the Pico family, Eddie Pico and his brothers. The Angulas children. Mrs Angulas was the grandmother of Mrs. Arbolite.

PL: Do you remember how many children in the school?

Mr. L: I dont remembaer, there weren't too many in each class,we were all in one room. I don't remember if I liked school or not. Our cousins were also there, four of them. Frank Dover walked five miles to school, that kid! The trustee (I don't know what Mr. Lopez means by TRUSTEE) up there was a little old man name Fernandito Cardenas who used to drive up in a cart. After school Benny and I would get the horses and do a little harrowing or plowing while my dad was away. There were a bunch of wood choppers up there too. Their names were Juan Ignacio, Lina Ignacio, and they were Indians from the Indian Orchard Ranch (this ranch was located at the foot of old San Marcos Rd). They chopped wood for my dad, they would pile it up and Dad would bring it down here (to Santa Ynez) and sell the wood to Minetti, at the restaruant there. Mind you, they used to geat 8 dollars a cord, and bring it down. Minetti's was a restaurant on Sagunto Street. It used to be next to the little building (Foss Reality), that is next to the service station, going west. It was the Greer place before Minette bought it. In the back on the other street Mrs. Greer built a dance hall and it was there for years,

we use to go to dances there, had great times.

PL: Did you finish 8th grade?

Mr. L: Dad sold the place and we came down to town and he ran the livery stable right on the corner of Faraday and Sagunto Street (NE corner)where the doctors are now . We lived in the two story hbuilding in the back. This was around 1910.

PL: So you continued with school in town?

Mr. L:, And my teacher then was Mrs. (Muriel) Edards. Then we had another teacher who was a twin, both of them taught school here. One of them married Jimmy Carter and the other married James Fields. He is still living in Los Olivos. His father (Ezra Fields) farmed the Zaca Ranch.

PL: When did you start working for a living?

Mr. L: After I was 15 I went to work at the Alisal, riding there. When I worked there the ranch belonged to Mr. Murphy and the foreman was Joe Murphy, his nephew. Joe had a wife and two little girls living there. We lived in the bunk house, got room and board. I worked there for awhile and then got a better job working for Charlie Marano of Pismo and the crazy guy they talk about called Pompao. They had a ranch way up
in the hills there. Marano was a great big fellow, he weighed 450 or 500 pounds. I went to work for him. He was an early bird. He had cattle from Happy Canyon way up here to ? , all over them hills. He would get me up at 3 in the morning, have breakfast and then I would saddle a

horse and come over here to start pumping water for the cattle. I would get a horse from the corral, put him in the thing (harness, I guess) and the horse would work all day long pumping water, sometimes he would go to sleep there, just walking around. In the evening I had to put the horse back in the corral, feed it, saddle up my horse amd go back to the ranch. Just one horse pumping water all day. Then I'd get home late, have dinner, go to bed and have to get up a 3 in the morning to start all over.

PL: What were your wages?

Mr. L: I was making fifteen dollars a month. In them days I did not spend too much money anyway.

My brother and I would go to the dances but when we go older we didn't have any time. I quit there and go a better job at the San Fernando Rey Ranch, on San Marcos Pass. Towards the hills there in some trees there was a house that they used to call the Home Station, that had been a stage coach stop. A cousin of mine had just gotten married, named Pico, and he was living there at the time and he got me the job at 35 dollars a month with room and board. Jameson was the boss and there was farming all through there so I went to driving 6 and 8 horse teams, plowing through the winter. After that I returned to the Alisal and went riding again. This would be around 1913. The Murphys were still there. 1914 was a very hard, cold winter, they must have lost a lot of cattle, I'll bet 500 head. The cause was poor health, and very cold weather.

If you stood by the creek, you could see dead cattle come floating down. The cattle were fed in a little canyon, and they had to cross the creek, sometimes they would fall and die. At the time calves were selling for one dollar, no matter what size. Frank Arianes and old man Land hauled hay for the cattle. Old man Lane was Charlie Gott's father-in-law. They used to haul hay up there and sometimes they got stuck on the road and would have to dump the load and go back for more. It rained and was very cold in 1914. One day of that year Frank Arianes was coming over to Fox Canyon, where the Chamberlain Ranch is now, after a load of hay, he had a wagon and four horses and leading two mules. Just as he was on the bridge, it caved in, the mules jumped into the wagon, and a big timber fell right on the driver's seat, Frank could have been killed. One of the horses was badly hurt. We all came down there to help with the horses and we brought up a sled and rolled the horse into it and took it to Petersen's barn, near Solvang. Finally the horse got better and could work again. In that same year the San Marcos Ranch brought a bunch of cattle by, I had always wanted to work for the San Marcos, Benny and Pete were working there, so I talked to George Rowe, Bess hunt's father, and he says, 'Sure,' so I quit the Alisal and went to the San Marcos. It was a bigger ranch. I was there until they pulled us off for the service. My brother Pete had died in 1917.

PL: Can you tell me how Pete was killed?

Mr. L: We were working over on the Santa Anita, Hollister's ranch down from Las Cruses, all of us. Pete went back to headquarters on the San Marcos, and of course in those days, he liked to have a few drinks with friends, and I don't know what happened. They put the man in jail. The lawyer my father had was Ford from Los Angeles and Mr Goux from Santa Barbara. It was a tragedy in the family. Johnnie Bermudes, he knew us well, saddled up a horse and came out to tell us, Benny and I went to Santa Ynez.

PL: When did you go into the Army?

Mr. L: Just as soon as I was 21. In 1918. I did not stay too long. When I went in I was sent to Fort Rosencranze, San Diego. I stayed for 4 or 5 months. Eddie Fields and I joined the bulgers and they sent us out to the sand dunes to practice there and we would blow them things. After two weeks they sent Eddie home and then I didn't like being by myself so I asked to go back with the company. I got my discharge papers and came back to the valley. I came back to the ranch for a little while and then I got married.

PL: How old were you then?

Mr. L: 21, and my first wife was Olivia Carmargo. and we had seven children, one girl and six boys.

PL: Where are the children now?

Mr. L: Standley lives here, Tommy works for Sanchez

Johnnie is in Santa Barbara, Henry is in New Jersey, Victor, I don't know where he is, Ester Harris is my daughter, who works at the Alisal, and I have a bunch of grandchildren. With my second wife, I have raised three more children.

PL: After getting married, what jobs did you have?

Mr. L: I drove for Sam McMurry. He had a contract to build road to the 'Palacio', J.J. Mitchell's place. McMurry was a farmer, but somehow he got this job to grade a road. Then I worked at the Alisal driving a team. About this time I wife was in a bad accident and was in the hospital for three weeks.

End of Side 1, Tape 1

Befin Side 2, Tape 1

Then I got a job with Doheny, where the airport is now. Driving a team of 8 horses with a single line. Jimmy Carmargo, Tony Bermudes, and me, driving teams there. I stayed quite a while. We ~~we~~ would haul the grains to Los Olivos to the narrow gauge. They used to make me shoe the horses for the same wages, now extra money for extra work. I had to shoe the horses for all the teams. We would bring the horses over to Bill Anderson, the Santa Ynez blacksmith, and while he hammered the shoes, I had to nail

them in. They did not want to pay me more. I was getting 3 1/2 dollars a day. So I quit and went to the Home Station and worked for a man named Riley. My brother, Ramon and I worked there . We got the job of taking a few cattle to be shipped and went by the Alisal, and on coming back a man named Jesse Stewart was telling us about a horse that no one could ride, it was a beautiful horse, and they were going to kill it and feed it to the pigs. A fellow named Thompson was foreman. My horse was 16 years old and I said I would trade my horse for that wild one. I saddled him up and had no trouble with him at all. Next day Mr. Riley, at Home Station, asked me where I had gotten that beautiful horse, and would I trade him for 2 mares, and I said I would, but I never did, because in the meantime my brother-in-law had come down from Montery and we all, the family went back to Monterey, leaving that horse behind. My dad had died in 1923, so between 1923 and 1929 we lived in Monterey. I thought I could make better money up there. I worked in the cannery for awhile, then did construction work in Monterey and Pacific Grove. I worked on the San Marcos building in Monterey, a beautiful building.

In 1929 my mother asked me to come back to the valley. My dad and mother were living on what is now the Mansfield place, located between the Santa Ynez town park and Hwy. 246. My dad had bought that place after he retired from the livery stable.

When coming back here we went to Santa Barbara and I worked in the lemon orchards for Andrew McDonald. I worked there for 8 years and we lived on Haley Street. By this time my wife and I separated.

Mr. McDonald could not get lumber as the war was coming on, so I went up to Santa Maria and worked at the bomber base .

FL: Did you have much trouble during the depression?

Mr. L: No, it seems as though I had more food then than now. I was working for a stone mason in Santa Barbara, the quarry was in Cold Spring Canyon. I had 8 men helping cut out that rock.

The bomber base is where Santa Maria airport is now. Did you know there are about 15 big tanks buried there, that were to hold gasoline? We buried them.

After that I got a job at Camp Cook and we did work at Point Sal. I was a driller for a dynamite crew. We would make the holes for the dyamite, then the powder went in and it was blown up to make new roads. One day we found a very large rock just waiting to fall, I did not want to work there and told the boss. He got mad, he was an Italian, but he went ahead and blasted and the rock came down and destroyed the rock crusher and a truck. The Army brought in another truck, a lot of equipment was destroyed that day. I quit that job and went to Santa Maria and found a job in a laundry. That is where I met my second wife, in a bundle of clothes.

End of Side 2, Tape 1

Begin Side 1, Tape 2

PL: Did you like the work of being a cowboy?

Mr. L: Yes, most of the young people around I liked. It was just about the only work we could get.

When we were little and lived up on the mountain, every time my mother was going to have a new baby my dad would take her down to the old adobe house on the Duff property now. Old lady Camargo or Joan Carillo would take care of her. Benny, Pete and I would go and visit the old Chinamen on the reservation. They raised vegetables there and there were two of them. I don't know where they came from. They just lived in the swamps there. We used to buy * tabacco from them and they would give us candy and they were so dirty but we visited them anyway. They had an old building there where Harrison's Hardware is now, across from where my parents lived. There was a row of houses there and the Chinese would bring in firecrackers to sell. Even before my time I heard there was a Chinese laundry on Sagunto St.

I had cousins living on the reservation. I have Chumash blood in me. One of my grandmothers was from Monterey and was Chumash. My grandfather came from Spain.

I remember the time my brothers and I would take a horse and go to visit the sheepherders in the valley. There

were lots of sheep in the valley after harvest time. The sheepherders would bring them in to eat the stubble from the fields. They would give us things to eat. Cheese and meat.

PL: Thank you, Mr. Lopez, for this interview today.